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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-ninth session
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Geneva, 15 March 1993
Item 1(a) of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE BOARD

Introductory note

The secretariat's annotations are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

The provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-ninth session as approved by the Board at its 816th plenary meeting on 14 October 1992, (TD/B/39(1)/L.7), is reproduced in section I.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters

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   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the fortieth session of the Board

2. Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its eighth session: policies for human resource development, with particular reference to technical cooperation activities for trade and development

3. Trade policies, structural adjustment and economic reform: trade policy reforms in developing countries and the international support required

4. Developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries

5. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

6. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

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   (b) Regional integration issues

7. Follow-up to the decision of the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session (Board decision 399 (XXXIX) of 9 October 1992) on the establishment of an ad hoc working group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament

8. Sustainable development: implications for UNCTAD of recent General Assembly decisions concerning the follow-up to UNCED's conclusions and recommendations

9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   [To be completed in the light of developments]

10. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action:

    (a) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-second session (8-12 March 1993)

11. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

    (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

    (b) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

    (c) Review of the calendar of meetings;

    (d) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

12. Other business

13. Adoption of the report of the Board.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Procedural matters

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

Item 1 (a) - Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

In approving the provisional agenda (at its 816th plenary meeting on 14 October 1992), the Board authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to adjust and complete the provisional agenda in the light of developments, on the understanding that any amendments or additions would be subject to consultations with representatives of States members of the Bureau and interested delegations within the framework of the consultative machinery referred to in paragraph 83 of the Cartagena Commitment. These amendments, if any, will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/1	Annotated provisional agenda
TD/B/39(2)/1/Add.1	Addendum

Organization of work

The proposals of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the organization of the work of the session were approved by the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 21 January 1993.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/1/Add.2	Organization of work of the session

Item 1 (b) - Adoption of the report on credentials

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board. (Rule 17.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Trade and Development Board)

In-session documentation

Item 1 (c) - Provisional agenda for the first part of the fortieth session of the Board

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the first part of the fortieth session (scheduled to be held from 20 September to 1 October 1993).

In-session documentation

Item 2 - Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its eighth session: policies for human resource development, with particular reference to technical cooperation activities for trade and development

At its pre-sessional executive session, on 21 September 1992, the Board endorsed the oral report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on arrangements for the monitoring and follow-up of the substantive recommendations of UNCTAD VIII, thereby agreeing, inter alia, that, for each part of its regular session, it should identify a particular topic or topics to be inscribed under the broad heading "Follow-up to the recommendations of UNCTAD VIII". The choice of topic should take into account the fact that paragraph 63 of the Cartagena Commitment called for the review of certain issues which have not been included in the work programmes of the new Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups, while the degree of urgency that any given topic might have assumed in the light of developments should also be an influencing factor.

At the second part of its thirty-ninth session, the Board will carry out a review of policies for human resource development, with particular reference to technical cooperation activities for trade and development.

To assist the Board, the secretariat will submit a report, taking into account the relevant sections of the Cartagena Commitment which will focus on human resource development in trade-related areas under four broad headings. The first (the changing framework of international trade) will discuss the human resource needs of developing countries in the light of recent developments related to trade, both nationally and internationally. The second will review the present situation as regards the development of human resources in developing countries in trade-related areas. The third (policies and measures for human resource development for trade) will outline a series of measures under way in developing countries, or which could be encouraged, to enhance human resource development for trade. And the fourth (technical cooperation for human resource development for trade) will focus on international support measures, as requested by developing countries, to support training programmes in the area of trade and trade-related services, with particular reference to UNCTAD's own activities.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/14	The development of human resources for trade

Item 3 - Trade policies, structural adjustment and economic reform: trade policy reforms in developing countries and the international support required

It will be recalled that paragraph 66 of the Cartagena Commitment calls for the Board, at one part of its annual sessions, to consider a topic relating to trade policies, structural adjustment and economic reform.

In paragraph 125 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference noted that in recent years, a growing number of developing countries have adopted courageous policy reforms involving ambitious autonomous trade liberalization. In paragraph 128, the Conference agreed on the need for developing countries to continue the trade-policy reforms and structural adjustment they have undertaken and, in particular, to progressively reduce their import barriers, consistent with their trade, financial and development needs. The Conference also considered that these efforts should be supported by the international community through adequate improved market access and increased flows of financial resources.

The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of its resolution 47/183 of 22 December 1992, entitled "Eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", urged all countries to fulfil their commitments to halt and reverse protectionism.

To assist the Board, the secretariat will submit a report discussing recent trends in trade policy reforms in developing countries and policy issues relating to the international support required for their successful implementation.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/3	Trade policy reforms in developing countries and the international support required

Item 4 - Developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries

In paragraph 143 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference urged all participants, and in particular the major trading partners, to make determined efforts to arrive at an early, balanced, comprehensive and successful outcome to the Uruguay Round, taking into account the specific interests of the developing countries.

In paragraph 17 of its resolution 47/183, of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly urged all countries to reach a final agreement on the remaining issues of the Uruguay Round, and reaffirmed that the balanced and comprehensive conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations is crucial, and is needed in order to strengthen the rules and disciplines of the international trading system and significantly enhance the prospects for trade, economic growth and development of all countries, especially developing countries.

The Board will have before it a conference room paper by the UNCTAD secretariat reflecting the most recent developments in the Round.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/CRP.1	Developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries

Item 5 - Review of progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Background

The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 decided, inter alia, that the Trade and Development Board shall consider, during each of its annual spring sessions, the review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. In accordance with this resolution, the Board, at the first part of its thirty-ninth session, carried out its second annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In response to the Cartagena Commitment, it also reviewed the question of appropriate adjustment of commitments in respect of targets and levels of official development assistance to last developed countries in the light of the addition by the General Assembly of six countries to the list of LDCs after the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Review of progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action

The third annual global-level review will be conducted by the Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session. To assist the Board in undertaking this review, the Least Developed Countries 1992 Report (TD/B/39(2)/10) will be made available.

Special issues for in-depth review

The Board, at the first part of its thirty-ninth session, decided that it would review two special issues in depth at the second part of that session:

(i) Domestic and external resource mobilisation, including debt situation and management;

(ii) Improving trading opportunities.

The Least Developed Countries 1992 Report will contain in-depth analyses of these issues.

Implications of the application of the new identification criteria for LDCs

Since the adoption of the Programme of Action, a total of six new countries have been added by the General Assembly to the group of LDCs, which now number 47. Apart from Liberia in 1990, five others - Cambodia, Madagascar, the Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia - were included in the LDC category by General Assembly resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991, upon the recommendation of the Committee for Development Planning after the formulation of the new criteria for the identification of LDCs.

As noted above, the Trade and Development Board, at the first part of its thirty-ninth session reviewed the question of the implications of the enlargement of the list of LDCs for commitments in respect of targets and levels of ODA to LDCs. It decided to examine, at the second part of the thirty-ninth session, the effects which the countries newly added to the list of LDCs would have on the additional resource requirements of the LDC group as a whole.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/10 Least Developed Countries 1992 Report

Item 6 - UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

(a) Review of UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in Africa
(b) Regional integration issues

At the first part of its thirty-ninth session, the Board considered a note by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD containing proposals for UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and to the United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (TD/B/39(1)/5).

The Board decided* that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should be requested to undertake Africa-specific studies, analyses and reports on specific issue areas, and that for the spring session in 1993, reports should be submitted on: (a) Review of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in Africa; and (b) regional integration issues in Africa.

The Board also decided that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should be requested to present progress reports on UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the New Agenda to its spring sessions.

In the same decision, the Board called for an evaluation of UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the New Agenda to be carried out by the Board every two years, taking into account the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms and timetable set up by the General Assembly. In this connection, it will be recalled that, in paragraph 43 of the annex to resolution 46/151, of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly established the following timetable:

(a) In 1993, the General Assembly will conduct a preliminary consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda;

(b) In 1995, the Economic and Social Council will devote part of its high-level segment to the consideration and implementation of the New Agenda;

(c) In 1996, the General Assembly will conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda;

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*/ For the text of the decision, see Report of the Trade and Development Board on the first part of its thirty-ninth session (UNCTAD/PSMS/CAS/462), chapt. I.A, item 8.

(d) In 1998, the Economic and Social Council will devote part of its high-level segment to the implementation of the New Agenda;

(e) In the year 2000, the General Assembly will conduct the final review and assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda.

In response to the above mandates, the Board will have before it, at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, a note reviewing UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in Africa and a report on regional integration issues in Africa. The secretariat will provide a progress report on UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the New Agenda.

The Board will also be expected to carry out its first evaluation of UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the New Agenda, as an input to the General Assembly's preliminary consideration in 1993 of the implementation of the New Agenda.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/11	Regional integration issues in Africa
TD/B/39(2)/12	Review of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities in Africa

Item 7 - Follow-up to the decision of the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session (Board decision 399(XXXIX) of 9 October 1992) on the establishment of an ad hoc working group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament

In paragraph 63 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference agreed that UNCTAD should, in the light of its mandate, continue to address longstanding trade and development problems, as well as new and emerging issues in this field; and further agreed, in paragraphs 63(4) and 99 respectively, that the issue of the economic aspects of conversion of military capacities to civilian uses should be addressed and that the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, with the appropriate support from the secretariat, should explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament and the implications for world economic growth and development.

At the second part of its thirty-eighth session, by decision 398(XXXVIII), of 7 May 1992 (Section D), the Board decided to consider at the earliest opportunity the establishment of an ad hoc working group to explore questions related to the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament and the implications for economic growth and development of reductions of military expenditures, taking into account the specific and individual situation of countries, in line with paragraphs 24, 98 and 99 of the Cartagena Commitment.

At the first part of its thirty-ninth session, by decision 399 (XXXIX), of 9 October 1992, the Board established an Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament and requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to: (a) prepare a report on the activities in other United Nations organizations in this area and indicate where UNCTAD could best play a role; (b) prepare an estimate of the resource implications of setting up the Ad Hoc Working Group; (c) circulate the report and the estimate well in advance of the second part of the thrity-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board; and (d) prepare draft terms of reference, taking into account views on the report, and circulate it in advance of the second part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board.

By the same decision, the Board decided to establish at the second part of its thirty-ninth session the timetable for the Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament, taking into account the timetable of existing Ad Hoc Working Group as well as the availability of resources.

Drawing on the draft prepared by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Board might wish to finalize the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group, in addition to establishing the timetable for its future work. The report on the activities in other United Nations organizations in the area of transition to disarmament, and the estimate of the resource implications of setting up the Ad Hoc Working Group in UNCTAD, as circulated to Governments in accordance with Board decision 399 (XXXIX), will also be made available to the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/Misc.1	Draft terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmamen

Item 8 - Sustainable development: implications for UNCTAD of recent General Assembly decisions concerning the follow-up to UNCED's conclusions and recommendations

At the first part of its thirty-ninth session the Board, in response to the Cartagena Commitment, considered the orientation and the content of UNCTAD's future work in the field of sustainable development, particularly in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). While recognizing that necessary adjustments might be called for as a result of action taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the Board established guidelines for the future activity of the Board and its subsidiary bodies, and decided that the Board itself should initially concentrate on the important area of the reconciliation of environmental and trade policies, including the necessity to ensure that environmental measures do not become an instrument of protection.

To assist the Board, the secretariat will submit a brief progress report on work done so far in this area, outlining proposals for future work.

In its resolution 47/191, of 22 December 1992, concerning institutional arrangements to follow-up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session in February 1993, to set up a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development, consisting of 53 States elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies for three-year terms.

In paragraph 21 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested all United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term plans, as appropriate, in line with Agenda 21, in particular regarding projects for promoting sustainable development in accordance with paragraph 38.28 of Agenda 21, and make their reports on steps they have taken to give effect to this recommendation available to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council in 1993 or, at the latest in 1994, in accordance with Article 64 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In paragraph 25, the Assembly requested the Governing Councils of UNEP and UNDP, and the Trade and Development Board, to examine the relevant provisions of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 at their next sessions and submit reports on their specific plans to implement Agenda 21 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Commission on Sustainable Development and Economic and Social Council. The Board might wish to use the informal discussions under this item to decide on the form of the above report, which would have to be transmitted to Economic and Social Council at its regular session (scheduled to be held in Geneva, 28 June - 30 July 1993).

To assist the Board, the secretariat will submit a brief report outlining proposals for future work on sustainable development. For ease of refernce, the full text of General Assembly resolution 47/191 and the guidelines on sustainable development established by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session, as well as chapter 38 of Agenda 21, will be made available.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/CRP.2	Environment and international trade Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/39(2)/CRP.3	Implementation of Agenda 21 Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/39(2)/CRP.4	Relevant mandates from the General Assembly, UNCED, and the Trade and Development Board

Item 9 - Other matters in the field of trade and development

- Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fifth session

The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT held its twenty-fifth session from 26 to 27 November 1992.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 3 of the report on the session, where an explanation is given for the delay in convening the session and for its short duration. Attention is also drawn to paragraph 6, referring to discussions on ITC at the first part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/17	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
ITC/AG(XXV)/134 and Add.1	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fifth session

Item 10 - Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

- Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget, twenty-second session (8 - 12 March 1993)

At its 815th meeting on 9 October 1992, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party (21st session, 31 August - 8 september 1992) on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 (circulated to the Board under cover of TD/B/39(1)/L.1). At the same meeting, the Board adopted the draft agreed conclusions on this item (TD/B/39(1)/L.4). Following CPC"s consideration, the General Assembly adopted a revised medium-term plan at its forty-seventh session. The complete revised medium-term plan is being issued by Headquarters in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No., 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

With respect to the programme budget, the United Nations Secretary-General has indicated to the General Assembly (A/47/753) that he would be submitting to it, at its resumed session in early 1993, revised estimates for 1993 arising from the restructuring and revitalization exercise under way. The presentation and review of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 which should have taken place in April 1993 has been postponed to a later stage in 1993. This latter document will reflect the decisions of the General Assembly on the forthcoming revised estimates for the programme budget 1992-1993 due to be presented for review in early March 1993.

Item 11 - Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

Item 11(a) - Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

A list of the 101 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/INF.106/Rev.5 and Add.1. Any new applications will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Item 11(b) - Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 152 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD - 65 in the General Category and 87 in the Special Category. Any new applications will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Proposed reclassification of NGOs already in status with UNCTAD

At the first part of its thirty-ninth session, the Board noted that NGOs already in status with UNCTAD had originally been classified either in the General Category (if they exercise functions relating to most of the activities of the Board or more than two Committees), or in the Special Category (if they have special competence in specific matters falling within the terms of reference of the Board and of one or two Committees); and that reclassification of certain NGOs in the Special Category was called for to bring their classification into line with the new Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups.

On 16 November 1992, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD addressed a communication to all NGOs in status with UNCTAD (in both the General and Special Categories) transmitting the terms of reference of the new Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups, and drawing their attention in particular to paragraph 84 of the Cartagena Commitment concerning the future role of NGOs in the work of UNCTAD, as called for by the Conference. NGOs in the Special Category were informed of the secretariat's provisional reclassification for them as it appears in TD/B/39(1)/CRP.5, and confirmation of their agreement to this reclassification was requested.

By the same communication, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD submitted to all NGOs a questionnaire which would enable him to be apprised of the interest of these organizations in the work of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD as restructured (including the Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament), as well as to assess how existing consultative arrangements were working and to seek ways and means for developing more effective and fruitful relations.

The Board will be informed of the responses received from NGOs in the Special Category regarding their reclassification. Replies were requested by 15 January 1993.

Item 11(c) - Review of the calendar of meetings

An annotation to this item will be contained in an addendum to the present document.

Item 11(d) - Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and budgetary implications of any proposals before it.

Item 12 - Other business

- Membership of Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

(i) The four Standing Committees and five Ad Hoc Working Groups established by the Conference

At its 816th plenary meeting, on 14 October 1992, the Board confirmed the membership of the four Standing Committees and the core membership of the five Ad Hoc Working Groups, as reflected in document TD/B/39(1)/CRP.4/Rev.1, and noted that further replies would be reflected in addenda to the document.

At the same meeting, the Board mandated the Bureau and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consider and take a decision on any further applications for membership received prior to the second part of the thirty-ninth session.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Board will be expected to confirm the revised membership of the new bodies established by the Conference.

Documentation

TD/B/39(2)/CRP.5	Revised membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups established by the Conference at its eighth session

(ii) Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament

It is anticipated that, in accordance with the general provisions of paragraph 77 of the Cartagena Commitment, core membership of the Ad Hoc Working Group to explore the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament, established by Board decision 399(XXXIX) of 9 October 1992, will also be open to all interested countries.

In due course, an appropriate communication will be addressed to States members of UNCTAD concerning the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group. At that time, Governments will be requested to indicate their desire to attend as core members or as observers.

No documentation

Item 13 - Adoption of the report of the Board

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report of the Board are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions of the Board and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the Board's proceedings, which constitutes the Official Records of the Board's session.

In-session documentation